

As a staple of the community, the company continues to grow and give back to the people of Missouri. Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc., or BIVI, employs over 500 people in the St. Joseph and Elwood area of Missouri. The 100 employees who have been with BIVI since the first day 25 years ago are evidence of BIVI's worker-friendly environment.

In conjunction with its commitment to the people of BIVI, the organization continues to have a positive impact on the development in this region as an active member of the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce. Not only is BIVI a committed leader in the United Way effort for St. Joseph, it also donates its time and money to the local schools and universities, a further investment in the future of this region.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. Its investment in the St. Joseph area community is exceptional. Let us use Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. as an example of the influence investing and re-investing can have on a broader community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE '91 TEXAS ELITE SOFTBALL CLUB

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior performance of the '91 Texas Elite Fast Pitch softball club on their 5th place finish in the National Championship on August 6th, 2006.

The team placed 5th after competing against 114 fast pitch softball teams from around the Nation. During the course of the tournament the ladies had a record of 9 and 2 and finished the tournament as the highest ranked Texas team.

Their success was the combined effort of many extremely talented athletes, and would not have been possible if it was not for the incredible sense of teamwork put forth by all athletes.

I extend my sincere congratulations to coaches Slade Maloney and Stephanie Tamayo, as well as Ms. Taylor Petrick, Ms. Rayne House, Ms. Natalie Nimmo, Ms. Sara Draheim, Ms. Valerie Howell, Ms. Taylor Hoagland, Ms. Lindsay Zaobnjik, Ms. Danika Miller, Ms. Taylor Sells, Ms. Kim Spivey, and Ms. Magean De La Torre, the members of the '91 Texas Elite softball club.

TERROR ALERT: LOSS OF CREDIBILITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Richard Cohen for his recent article published in the Washington Post entitled "Terror Alert: Severe Risk of Hype" in which he calls into question the Bush administration's credibility when it comes to terrorism.

President Bush, Vice President CHENEY and other top administration officials asserted before the U.S. invasion that Iraq was reconsti-

tuting its nuclear weapons program, had chemical and biological weapons and maintained links to al Qaeda affiliates to whom it might give such weapons to use against the United States. Unfortunately, research and intelligence reports have proven otherwise. Instead of being adept at making sound policy, the current administration appears to be skilled in the art form of deception and dishonesty.

Currently, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales is once again putting the American people on "Terror Alert" without having substantial information. Just last week Mr. Gonzales announced the arrest of seven terrorists. Have we not learned from our past mistakes? The announcement of the arrests of these alleged terrorists are part of a sad trend within the Bush administration to exaggerate the facts, labeling anyone thought to be acting suspiciously or fitting a racial stereotype an al-Qaeda type terrorist. What we see is the Bush Administration's need to once again hype certain issues to gain not only America's trust, but to use that to bolster its declining credibility.

This is a serious matter for a variety of reasons. First, if Americans are being asked to surrender a measure of privacy and civil liberties, they deserve to have an administration that will use data not to deceive but to protect. Also, the arrest of the seven alleged terrorists should not be used as evidence of the administration's success in protecting the Nation if the facts are not clear that a real threat is involved. The facts as revealed in press reports to date, as Richard Cohen asserts are suspiciously short of providing a reasonable case that these misguided youth were in any position to pose a real threat to accomplish their alleged goals. There is some likelihood in fact, that it was the FBI's sting operation that gave these would be perpetrators any credibility at all, and that their planning was led by the FBI operative who posed as a terrorist to entrap the inept plotters.

I enter into the RECORD the Washington Post column by Mr. Richard Cohen and commend him for presenting this issue regarding the Bush administration's penchant to hype Terror Alerts. In order to regain the American people's confidence the Bush administration should not use or target events to achieve some political gain. I believe the War on Terror can and will be won when leaders start leading responsibly, placing the interest of the people first and their political objectives second.

[From washingtonpost.com, June 27, 2006]

TERROR ALERT: SEVERE RISK OF HYPE

(By Richard Cohen)

It is the sheerest luck, I know, that Attorney General Alberto Gonzales looks (to me) a bit like Jerry Mahoney, because he fulfills the same function for the Bush administration that the dummy did for the ventriloquist Paul Winchell. At risk to his reputation and the mocking he must get when he comes home at night, Gonzales will call virtually anyone an al-Qaeda-type terrorist. He did that last week in announcing the arrest of seven inferred (it's the strongest word I can use) terrorists. I thought I saw Dick Cheney moving his lips.

The seven were indicted on charges that they wanted to blow up the Sears Tower in Chicago and the FBI bureau in Miami. The arrests came in the nick of time, since all that prevented mass murder, mayhem and an

incessant crawl at the bottom of our TV screens was the lack of explosives, weapons or vehicles. The alleged conspirators did have boots, which were supplied by an FBI informant. Maybe the devil does wear Prada.

Naturally, cable news was all over the story since it provided pictures. These included shots of the Sears Tower, the FBI bureau, the seven alleged terrorists and, of course, Gonzales dutifully playing his assigned role of the dummy. He noted that the suspects wanted to wage a "full ground war" against the United States and "kill all the devils" they could—this despite a clear lack of materiel and sidewalk-level IQs. Still, as Gonzales pointed out, if "left unchecked, these homegrown terrorists may prove to be as dangerous as groups like al-Qaeda." A presidential medal for the man, please.

It is not now and never has been my intention to belittle terrorism. Clearly, if what the government alleges turns out to be the truth—look, that sometimes happens—then these guys deserve punishment. But theirs was such a preposterous, crackpot plot that the only reason it rose to the level of a televised news conference by the nation's chief law enforcement officer was the Bush administration's compulsive need to hype everything. For this, Gonzales, like a good Boy Scout, is always prepared.

Does it matter? Yes, it does. It matters because the Bush administration has already lost almost all credibility when it comes to terrorism. It said there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and there were none. It said al-Qaeda and Iraq were in cahoots and that was not the case. It has so exaggerated its domestic success in arresting or convicting terrorists that it simply cannot be believed on that score. About a year ago, for instance, President Bush (with Gonzales at his side) asserted that "federal terrorism investigations have resulted in charges against more than 400 suspects, and more than half of those charged have been convicted." The Post looked into that and found that the total number of (broadly defined) "terrorism" convictions was 39.

This compulsion to exaggerate and lie is so much a part of the Bush administration's DNA that it persists even though it has become counterproductive. For instance, the arrest of the seven suspects in Miami essentially coincided with the revelation by the New York Times that the government has "gained access to financial records from a vast international database and examined banking transactions involving thousands of Americans." Almost instantly, the administration did two things: It confirmed the story and complained about it. The Times account only helped terrorists, Cheney said.

Is he right? I wonder. This is a serious matter. After all, Americans are being asked to surrender a measure of privacy and civil liberties in the fight against terrorism—essentially the argument Cheney has been making. I for one am willing to make some compromises, but I feel downright foolish doing so if the fruit of the enterprise turns out to be seven hapless idiots who would blow up the Sears Tower, if only they could get to Chicago.

Cheney in particular has zero credibility, but his administration colleagues are not far behind. Prominent among them, of course, is the attorney general, a man so adept at crying wolf and mouthing the administration's line that he simply cannot be believed any more.

The Sears Tower. The Miami bureau of the FBI. Please. Someone, put the dummy back in his box.